EXCISE

Rm/R File

1270

CONFIDENTIAL

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

January 26, 1957

TO : P - Mr. McCardle BW for CLUTE

FROM : NEA - William M. Rountree WMR

SUBJECT : President's Statement of Welcome to King Saud

XR 711.11-EI

I appreciate your suggestion to abbreviate the proposed statement of welcome by the President to King Saud and to delete certain references.

In line with guidance already provided USIA, we wish to draw attention to the fact that discussions with the King and his party will relate to the entire Near East area, and not exclusively to bi-lateral problems.

Attachment: Revised draft statement.

NEA/P:TRFrye

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SPEECH OF WELCOME

President Eisenhower to King Saud

Washington National Airport, January 30

Your Majesty, on behalf of the American people I heartily welcome you to the United States. As a great leader of the Arab people and as custodian of the cities most holy to Islam, you are doubly welcome. We are honored by your visit.

We have been fortunate in counting both your late father, His Majesty King ibn Saud, and Your Majesty among the friends of the United States. I look forward to the strengthening and reaffirmation of that valued friendship through the opportunity provided by this visit.

Your Majesty has come at a time when events and problems in the Middle East are of particular concern to all the nations of the world. The United States has given clear proof of its deep interest in the security and well-being of the area in which Your Majesty's great country lies, and of its profound desire to see the problems of the Near East solved peacefully and equitably. We believe there are no obstacles which cannot be surmounted with God's help, and persevering effort, and we are confident that with patience and good will the task of solving the problems of the Middle East can be achieved.

I look forward to full and frank discussions with Your Majesty during the next few days. I trust that the stay of Your Majesty in this country will be a pleasant and interesting one. Again, permit me to extend a cordial welcome in the name of the American people and the Government of the United States.